

Active Learning in Continuing Medical Education

Knowledge of Active Learning

What is Active Learning? Compared to a lecture format, active learning (AL) *is defined as any instructional method that engages learners in the learning process. In short, AL requires learners to participate in meaningful learning activities, think about and analyze what they are doing and learning.* Examples of AL methods include: think-pair share, pause procedure during a lecture, or case-based discussions.

For explanations of the official AL terms, please see [Teaching Practice Terminology Tip Sheet](#) for details.

Note: for all questions you will need to complete all answers before moving to the next question or page.

The following abbreviations will be used throughout the questionnaire:

AL = Active Learning; CE = Continuing Education; CME = Continuing Medical Education.

The first set of questions will ask you about your knowledge of active learning.

* 1. Have you completed or participated in any of the following formal or informal training and/or program activities that included instruction about AL?

	Yes	No
A Certificate, Master's, or Doctor of Education degree that included information about AL methods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CE program in your Institution that included information about AL format	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National CE programs (e.g., annual conferences) that included information about AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-line courses about AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CE credits awarded by Medical Education journals (e.g., writing or peer review)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-study about AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other degree program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered "yes" to "self-study" or "other degree program", please describe.

* 2. How knowledgeable do you perceive yourself about AL as an educational method?

- ☐ Very knowledgeable
- ☐ Mostly knowledgeable
- ☐ Somewhat knowledgeable
- ☐ Not at all knowledgeable

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Use of Active Learning

The following questions are about your CME program's use of active learning methods.

* 3. How knowledgeable are you about whether AL is used in CME courses or programs certified by your CME unit?

- ☐ Very knowledgeable
- ☐ Mostly knowledgeable
- ☐ Somewhat knowledgeable
- ☐ Not at all knowledgeable

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Use of Active Learning

* 4. Based on your knowledge of these CME activities, please estimate the percentage of CME activities that are delivered by AL method.

- ☐ 0%
- ☐ 1-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ 76-100%

* 5. Your estimate for question 4 about percentage of CME activities using AL is based on...

- ☐ Actual data review
- ☐ Your overall perception (i.e., "gut feel")
- ☐ Frequent attendance at lectures/courses/conferences
- ☐ "Good-faith" estimate

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Use of Active Learning

* 6. Please tell us which of the following AL methods are used in CME activities certified by your CME unit. For explanations of the official AL terms used below, please see [Teaching Practice Terminology Tip Sheet](#) for details.

	Yes	No	I don't know
Flipped classroom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Think-Pair-Share	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Turn and Talk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Audience Response Polling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pause procedures during lecture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bulleterd breaks during lecture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
One-minute paper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer observation and feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simulation exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-reflection exercises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case-based discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Panel discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small group discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Large group discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What others are used? (please describe)

* 7. Your estimate for question 6 about AL methods used in CME activities in your CME unit is based on...

- ☐ Actual data
- ☐ Your overall perception (i.e., gut feel)
- ☐ Frequent attendance at lectures/courses/conferences
- ☐ Good-faith estimate

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What are Your Beliefs about Active Learning?

* 8. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about AL.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
AL combines engagement and observation with reflection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Both the instructor and the learners work cooperatively in AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lectures (passive learning) are difficult to adapt to AL methods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AL changes the teacher-learner relationship to a learner-learner relationship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The learner is engaged so that both knowledge gained and recall are increased in AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
With AL, instructors are more concerned with eliciting reflective thoughts that apply knowledge to practice than merely conveying facts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Barriers to Active Learning Methods

Next, we'd like to explore barriers to using active learning methods.

* 9. Each of the factors below may be perceived barriers for using AL in CME activities certified by your CME unit. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following examples of perceived barriers.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
AL is incompatible with larger audiences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many lecturers / presenters are unfamiliar with AL teaching methods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Learners dislike AL because it requires their participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AL is an inefficient way of teaching because increased interaction with the audience is time-consuming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AL requires more preparation and planning as it is an unfamiliar teaching format for many presenters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interaction with the audience may expose knowledge gaps of the lecturer/presenter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At my institution, AL is not considered a useful teaching tool in CME	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At my institution, there is a lack of administrative / secretarial support for AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My institution does not offer faculty development opportunities for AL teaching methods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most presenters "grew-up" and studied in a predominately lecture-based system and it worked for them; so, they don't see a need to change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The culture of my institution is lecture-based	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there are other barriers please describe them.

* 10. Please indicate how helpful you consider the following resources for increasing the use of AL methods in CME activities certified by your CME unit.

	Very helpful	Moderately helpful	Somewhat helpful	A little helpful	Not at all helpful
Assistance from educational strategists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Institution-wide training sessions on AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AL-related faculty development materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Best-practice publications about AL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Institutional recognition for AL teaching / curriculum development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have other ideas about increasing the use of active learning methods please describe them.

11. If you are developing best practices for increasing use of AL at your institution, please tell us about them.

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Demographics

Finally, we'd like to know a little more about you and your program/institution.

* 12. Please provide the name of your program/institution. (This information will be kept confidential.)

* 13. What is your current position in your CME unit?

- ☐ Assistant/Associate Dean of CME
- ☐ Other Education Senior Leader (e.g., Senior Associate Dean of Education)
- ☐ CME Unit Director
- ☐ CME Unit Administrator
- ☐ CME Unit Coordinator
- ☐ CME Program Manager
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 14. Who leads the CME unit in your program/institution?

- ☐ Same individual identified in question 13
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 15. How many years has the CME unit leader been in that position?

- ☐ <1 year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ >3-6 years
- ☐ >6-9 years
- ☐ >9 years
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

* 16. Is your CME unit accredited by the ACCME?

- ☐ Yes, **without** commendation
- ☐ Yes, **with** commendation
- ☐ No

* 17. How many CME activities (directly + jointly provided) on average do you report annually to the ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS)?

* 18. Is your CME unit based in a medical school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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Demographics

* 19. How many health-sciences faculty (basic science + clinical) are on staff in your medical school? Use this link to determine the exact number: [AAMC Faculty Roster 2018](#).

* 20. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

* 21. What is your age?

- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

22. Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire!